



Natalie Mukagasana Sugira

December 5, 1965 - February 10, 2015

Natalie Mukagasana Sugira (1965-2015)

CEDAR FALLS- Natalie Mukagasana Sugira, 49, of Cedar Falls, died Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City.

She was born December 5, 1965 in Kigali, Rwanda, daughter of Michel Sembega and Athanasie Mukankima. She married Pierre-Damien Mvuyekure on June 29, 1989 in Rutongo, Kigali.

She attended primary and secondary school in Rwanda and earned her BA degree in Political Science and French in 2003 from the University of Northern Iowa and her MA in Public Health Education in 2005, also from UNI. She worked with ONE.ORG, Rebuild Iowa and for the U.S.D.A. She was currently employed with UNI as an academic coordinator for UNI-CUE in Waterloo.

Survived by: her husband; two daughters, Anita Bwiza and Eva Clarisse Kayitesi, both of Cedar Falls; two sons, Michael Mugaba Jeni and Malcolm-Aimé Musoni, both of Cedar Falls; a nephew, Cleophas Kabarega of Cedar Falls; and her other relatives in Rwanda, including two sisters and two brothers.

Preceded in death by: her parents; two sisters and a nephew.

Mass of Christian Burial: 11:00 a.m. Monday at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center, on the UNI campus. Visitation from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at Richardson Funeral Service and also for one hour prior to Mass on Monday.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **15**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service
615 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3525
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

Funeral Service

FEB **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Stephen the Witness Student Center
1019 W 23rd Street
University of Northern Iowa Campus
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-9863
<http://ststephenuni.org>

Tribute Wall

SU

“ It has shocked and grieved me to learn, yesterday, July 25, 2015, of my good friend's passing. She was a beacon of strength, a wonderful mother, a fabulous cook and a hostess to the world. Shame on those who failed to let me know about her passing. I learned of it by chance and that is no way to find about about the death a friend.

She will be the flame of every candle I ever light.

Dr. Susan M. Rochette

susan - July 26, 2015 at 08:31 PM

RE

“ I remember the day she was telling me about the genocide back in her country, and what a wonderful faith filled Catholic woman she was. Pray for all of us here down on Earth Natalie. You raised beautiful disciplined kids and you were a great mother to all of us. A great peace maker! We miss you. Rebecca

Rebecca - February 19, 2015 at 02:53 PM

TS

“ I met Natalie at Dillard's and she had become a inspiration and dear friend to me we shared many laugh to gether I will really miss her I am stillin disbelief I will always remember her beautiful smile and accent! I pray for peace for her family. And my she Rest In Heaven!

Toyja Scott - February 16, 2015 at 10:48 PM

TH

“ Terry Helinski lit a candle in memory of
Natalie Mukagasana Sugira



Terry Helinski - February 16, 2015 at 09:25 PM

JP

“ Please accept our sincere condolences. May the words quoted from
this song bring you a measure of comfort as it did for us.
"If a man should die, can he live again?
Hear the promise God has made:
He will call; The dead will answer.
They shall live at his command.
For he will have a longing
For the work of his own hand.
So have faith, and do not wonder,
For our God can make us stand.
And we shall live forever,
As the work of his own hand "(Job 14:13-15)

Jeff & Peggy - February 16, 2015 at 01:56 PM



“ Condolences Snacker was purchased for the
family of Natalie Mukagasana Sugira.



February 16, 2015 at 10:00 AM

CZ

“ Catherine Zeman lit a candle in memory of Natalie Mukagasana Sugira



Catherine Zeman - February 16, 2015 at 09:54 AM

KS

“ Rip, Natalie...May God bless you...



Kamilah Stevens - February 15, 2015 at 04:01 PM

SH

“ Sharon Hyke-Vieth lit a candle in memory of Natalie Mukagasana Sugira



Sharon Hyke-Vieth - February 14, 2015 at 10:35 PM

SH

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



scott hall - February 14, 2015 at 08:44 PM

TF

“ *The Kioko Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Natalie Mukagasana Sugira.*



The Kioko Family - February 14, 2015 at 05:03 PM

 Aaron
Todd

“ *I'm so sad to hear of this news. I truly enjoyed working with Nataliya for a couple of years at the Rebuild Iowa Office. She knew tragedy too well, but was always in search of using those experiences to make the world a better place. Iowa is a better place as a result of her presence and passion.*



Aaron Todd - February 13, 2015 at 12:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Natalie Mukagasana Sugira.*



February 13, 2015 at 09:43 AM

JS

“ *Piere-Damien & Family, Our deepest sympathy for the loss of your wife, mother and a friend. No words can describe this loss. May you find comfort, love, peace, support and the will to carry forward her work and wishes. Our prayers to all of you.*

The Shilas Family-- Omaha (Paulo, Jen, Delaney and Katelyn)

Jen Shila - February 13, 2015 at 09:08 AM

JH

“ *Dear Pierre-Damien, My deep sympathy to you and your family. I remember your poignant comments about your wife at Supper Club in January. In sadness,*

Judith Harrington

Judith Harrington - February 13, 2015 at 08:09 AM



“ *I first met Natalie in 2009 when we worked together at the Rebuild Iowa Office. The more I got to know her, the more she became an inspiration to me. My heart goes out to all of her family. Her bright light will shine on in your special memories....*



Susan Josten - February 12, 2015 at 11:16 PM

GB

“ *Pierre, Anita, Evie, Michael and Malcolm---*

We are so very sorry that your beautiful wife and mother has departed this earth. She was a wonderful woman who brought so much joy to the lives of others. She made us smile, she made us laugh, she made us think.

I'll never forget the day that Janae and Anita wanted to go swimming but Natalie thought their swimsuit tops were too low-cut. She shook her finger at the girls and said, "If you advertise, the men will buy!!"

We miss her already.

We cannot imagine your pain, but want you to know that we are here praying for your peace and comfort.

Sincerely,

Gwenne and John Berry, and Janae Holmes

Gwenne Berry - February 12, 2015 at 09:21 PM

JL

“ *Blessings to her family. Natalie was a truly beautiful soul.*

Judy Lowe

Des Moines Iowa

Judith Lowe - February 12, 2015 at 05:45 PM

RF

“ Pierre and Family, Your old neighbors on Balboa were informed of Natalie's passing and very disturbed by the sad news. She was so friendly and outgoing and always had time to visit. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Natalie will find an everlasting peace with the Lord and will live in your memories forever. Natalie fought the good fight, she finished the race and she kept the faith. Godspeed Natalie! Richard(Rick) L. Foster

Richard L. Foster - February 12, 2015 at 02:17 PM

LJ

“ Pierre-Damien and Family,

I was shocked when President Ruud came into our UNI e-mail yesterday and announced the death of Natalie. I did not know that she was ill. The last time I talked with her was at Olive Garden about a year ago. Although I did not know Natalie well, I certainly came to admire her, along with you, as the two of you worked as a team in helping to bring Rwandans to UNI.

~ Linda Jernigan
Office of Admissions /UNI

Linda Jernigan - February 12, 2015 at 01:37 PM



RU

“ Ruthie lit a candle in memory of Natalie Mukagasana Sugira

Ruthie - February 12, 2015 at 12:21 PM



RK

“ *Pierre-Damien and family, so sad to hear of Natalie's passing. I always enjoyed our conversations whenever she and I crossed paths -- which happened several times since I returned to the area. You are all very special people to me, and I hope you find comfort in knowing how others also shared in affection and respect for Natalie. She will be missed.*

Rebecca Kauten - February 12, 2015 at 12:13 PM

GL

“ *Gloria lit a candle in memory of Natalie Mukagasana Sugira*



gloria - February 12, 2015 at 11:14 AM

LG

“ *I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Natalie. I worked in the same building with her, the USDA Service Center. She was a very kind and sweet person. I saw her some months back and we hugged and talked as if we talked on a daily basis! I send my condolences to her husband and children, heaven has definitely gained a perfect angel....*



Leslie Grundy - February 12, 2015 at 10:06 AM

VD

“ *Victoria DeFrancisco lit a candle in memory of Natalie Mukagasana Sugira*



Victoria DeFrancisco - February 12, 2015 at 09:35 AM

JL

“ *Natalie was, is and always will be my friend. My absolute favorite friend to randomly run into, as she could bring happiness out of me in an instant! Like pure sunshine, her joy was infectious with her upbeat nature, even after all of her sufferings. Like the Little Miss Sunshine books, she reminded me of Little Miss Happy, always sharing a smile and a hug.*

I am so deeply saddened by this gut-wrenching news of us all losing Natalie. My heart hurts for Pierre and all the kids. She loved you all so much! I'm so so sorry for your loss.

Happy times: I helped Natalie learn to drive, including learning to parallel park in my car, in my neighborhood, when our girls were in Kindergarten and the boys were babes. What a great memory, we laughed and giggled like teenagers. No doubt she taught me more than I taught her!

Natalie's story is incredibly inspiring and how she chose to live life to its fullest and give love to all she touched moves me to my core. I love this wonderful woman and will miss seeing her here on earth, but I am certain she is at peace with God and looking upon us all with her love.

Missing you Natalie!

Jennifer Lee

Jennifer Lee - February 11, 2015 at 08:46 PM

LP

“ I was fortunate to have known Natalie first as a brilliant student, and later as a dear friend. She graciously agreed to speak several times in my social work classes about her remarkable life story. We all gained inspiration and strength from her own perspective and "courage to be" in spite of great tragedies. My thoughts and prayers are with Pierre and their three wonderful children, of whom she was so proud.



Laura Praglin

Laura Praglin - February 11, 2015 at 08:04 PM

GG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Gloria Gallwoay - February 11, 2015 at 05:18 PM

GG

Pierre-Damien, Anita, Michael and Malcolm words cannot begin to describe how sorry I am for your loss. Natalie was such a beautiful person and I am so glad that I had the chance to know her not just as a co-worker, but as a good friend.

I first met Natalie when Anita joined Math & Science and she was the same beautiful person then as she was when she became a part of the UNI-CUE family. I enjoyed our lunch outings and conversations where we shared family stories. I will truly miss her smile, her laugh and her kind spirit. Heaven has truly gained an angel.

There are no words that can help to ease the loss you bear, but know that your family is in my every thought and prayer. May you all find comfort in those wonderful memories that you have of Natalie.

Gloria

Gloria Gallwoay - February 11, 2015 at 05:47 PM

LM

“*I am so sorry to hear of Natalie's passing. She was such a lovely and kind person. I remember how much I enjoyed her on a UNI Health Education trip to Mexico several years ago. She exuded joy and passion as she worked and learned during the trip. I had many conversations with her during our time together at UNI, and she always talked lovingly of her family. She truly loved her children.*

I am so sorry for your loss, and will keep you in my prayers.

Wishing you comfort in the many wonderful memories of your wife and mother,

Linda Miller

Linda Miller - February 11, 2015 at 03:07 PM